GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:350
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2007
RECOMMENDATIONS OF SIMCON ON PIRACY
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the incidents of piracy in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any raid have been conducted in this regard ;

(d) if so, the modus operandi of piracy identified ;

(e) whether the entertainment industry is in heavy loss due to piracy ;

(f) if so, whether the main cause of piracy is higher rates of entertainment ;

(g) whether the Committee (SIMCON) had suggested to reduce the said higher rates ;

(h) if so, the time by when the recommendations of the said Committee are likely to be implemented by the Government; and

(i) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to prevent piracy?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI)

(a)&(e)Yes, Sir. As per the estimation of Film & Television Producers' Guild of India there is a loss due to piracy of more than Rs. 1 crore per day in domestic market and between 40-50% in the overseas markets of the film industry.Raids are conducted by State authorities in such matters. In general parlance, "piracy" is a term indicating/ expressing activities which violate or infringe copyright.It may be mentioned that the owner of the copyright at a point of time may not be the original author or creator.The different Modus Operandi of piracy may be identified as follows:

(i) Illegal duplication of copyright protected work including making copies for adoptions of computer programmes even for non-commercial use.

(ii) Illegal exhibition of video without compensating the copyright owner.

(iii) Illegal uploading and downloading of any copyright protected work/games from internet.Since 'piracy' infringes upon copyright, such activity would always cause loss to copyright owner.

(f) to(i) High rates of entertainment tax, which pushes up the cost of cinema tickets, is one of the reason behind piracy of films. SIMCON has recommended reduction in Entertainment Taxes which will be implemented by State Governments. The steps taken/ to be taken by the Government to prevent piracy are as follows :

(i) A training module in English has been prepared and printed for senior police officers/ other Enforcement Agencies on Piracy and its effects and sent to all State Governments.

(ii) To create awareness on piracy Public Service Broadcasting Trust has produced a film and shown on Doordarshan.

(iii) On the pursuance and on the recommendation of SIMCON, State Govts. have lowered entertainment tax rates consistently from peak rate of 70% to 50% over the years.

(iv) The Cable Television Network Regulation Act has been amended in 2000 to prohibit a Cable Operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any programme or channel for which the copyright holder has not granted him a license.

(v) This Ministry has requested the Chief Secretaries of all States to advise District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police to include anti-piracy measures in their monthly activity reports.

(vi) This Ministry in consultation with the FICCI is drafting Optical Disc Law to counter piracy in entertainment sector.

(vii) In addition, this Ministry is providing all round support to Digital cinema to contain piracy.

(viii) The suggestions of the industry for amendments in the Copyright Act have been communicated to the Ministry of Human Resource Development for consideration.